**The Difference between Wikis and Blogs**

Collaboration Tools Handout #2

*In short, a* ***blog*** *is a "website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in reverse chronological order". A* ***wiki*** *is "a website that allows visitors to add, remove, edit, and change content...and allows for linking among any number of pages".*

***Blogs and wikis share some common traits:***

* *They are both websites.*
* *They are both user-generated (the content of blogs and wikis is created by the actual people who use the blogs or wikis.)*
* *They both allow users to comment on the content.*

***What are wikis better at than blogs?***

* *Wikis are better at archiving information for easy access.*
* *Wikis are better at gathering information from a group of people.*

***What are blogs better at than wikis?***

* *Blogs are better at quickly sharing new information.*
* *Blogs are better at starting and maintaining a dialog between the publisher and reader.*

***What are some common misconceptions about wikis?***

* *A wiki is limited as an encyclopedia-type tool. Not true. Because Wikipedia is so entrenched as the shining example of what a wiki is, many people make the assumption that you can only use a wiki to create some sort of list of definitions. A new wiki is a blank slate.*
* *Anyone in the world can edit every wiki. Not true. You can password protect your wiki so that only select people can add, edit, change the content.*
* *Once content is changed, it is lost forever, making it susceptible to intentional or unintentional loss of information. Not true. Every rendition of a wiki page is saved. If something happens, simply change back to any past version of the page.*

***What are some common misconceptions about blogs?***

* *A blog is just a diary. Not true. While online journals and early blogging seemed to focus more on diary-type writing, today's blogs are more varied. Blogs can focus on politics, food, travelling, technology tips, whatever.*
* *Only one person can author a blog. Not true. You can set it up so that as many people can publish information on a blog. Readers will be notified who authored each post.*